

The Richard Wood House
N.W. cor. of Main Street and Bacons Neck Road
Greenwich, Cumberland County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Richard Wood House
N.W. cor. of Main Street and Bacons Neck Road
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Owner: Theodore Wood (non resident)

Date of Erection: 1785 and 1795

Architect:

Builder: Richard Wood 3rd (1755-1822)

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two stories, garret, and cellar

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - brick in
Flemish bond on south and
east elevations

Interior walls - lath and
plaster on studding

Chimneys - brick built
into inside of gable end
walls

Roof - gable, wood
shingled

Historical Data:

Richard Wood 3rd, to whom title to this house has been traced in the public records was born in this village of Greenwich on 7th of 2nd month 1755, elder son of Richard Wood 2nd (1728-1807) by his first wife Hannah Davis. His father, who was one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas in 1786 and represented the County in the Assembly in 1790, purchased and resided in the house on the east side of the main

street there, one which had been built by Nicholas Gibbon in 1733.* The family were members of the religious Society of Friends.

Richard Wood 3rd, abovenamed, was a man of superior intellect, well educated at Friends School in the village. He became a school teacher, but soon went into business as a partner in the firm of Sheppard, Daniels and Wood, storekeepers, for a short time until Sheppard purchased the interests of the other two under their agreement not to open a rival store for three years. During this interval, Wood built the storehouse still standing at the southwest corner of Main and Willow Streets, (see NJ-269A) across the latter street from the house here considered, and carried on a successful business for several years.* In December 1780 Richard Wood was married at Woodbury, Gloucester County, to Ann Cooper. About the same time at which he erected the store building, he built the two-part house here considered, and which latter bears the dates 1785 on the metal box heads of the rainwater conductors on the front of the lesser unit and 1795 on those of the major one.

The land on which he built this house and store belonged then to his father, Richard Wood 2nd, who subsequently by his will of 4 January 1802, confirmed it to him by the devise "To my son Richard all my lots on the west side of Greenwich Street," in the village.

The builder and first owner of this house Richard Wood 3rd, died there in 1822. In the subsequent division of his real estate among his heirs in 1828, there was awarded "To Horatio C. Wood

*Cushing and Sheppard, History of Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland Counties, published 1883, page 687

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the Lot no. 2, beginning at a railing east of the house yard fence standing 3 perches 10 links from the corner of no. 3 or Store Lot, thence " etc., being 7.8 acres at the northwest corner of Main Street and Bacons Neck Road (now Willow Street), on which stands the house here surveyed.

Horatio C. Wood, abovenamed, by his deed of 18 April 1834 conveyed the same "certain house and (some 6 acres of the) lot situated in Greenwich", to Moses Sheppard, whose executors conveyed it as part of some 34 acres by deed of 22 March 1850 to Dr. George B. Wood. He occupied the house thereafter, devising it by his will of 22 June 1871 as "My dwelling house on the west side of the Main Street, which was the residence of my father Richard Wood, together with so much of my Greenwich farm as lies on the west side of said street.....about 30 acres" to "my nephew Richard Wood, son of my late brother Richard D. Wood, during his natural life, and after his decease, I devise the same unto his eldest son." Theodore Wood of Philadelphia, the owner in 1939, is presumably the heir therein mentioned.

Bibliography:

Search of title in Cumberland County Land and Probate records by O. F. Benjamin, H.A.B.S. title abstractor

Levin H. Cook

Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer